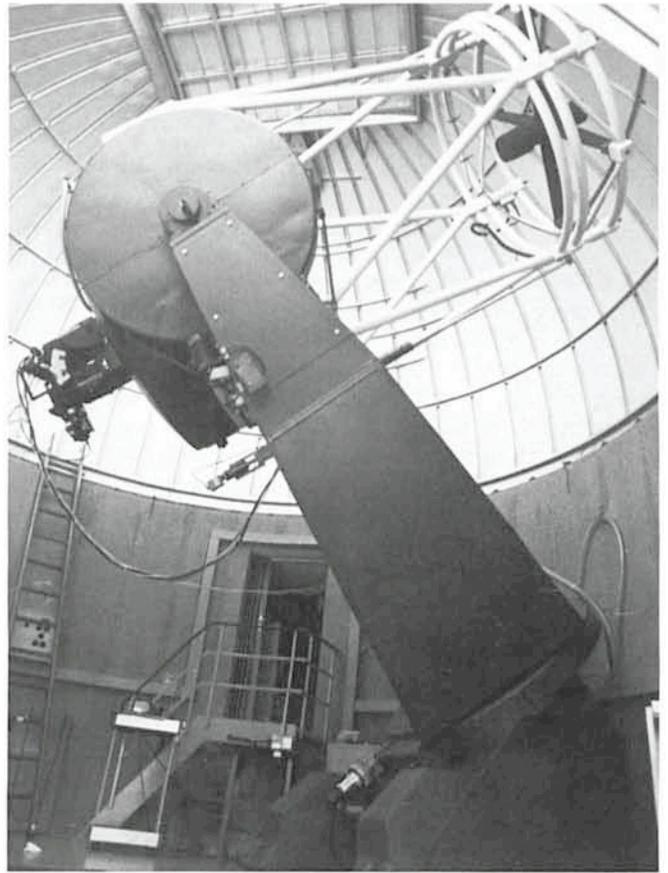


Gornergrat has a very small amount of precipitable water (less than ~ 1 mm) and of course very low ambient temperatures (down to -20°C or so). After some time spent on the installation of the telescope and auxiliary facilities (a small workshop, electronic equipment for guiding and data acquisition with a PDP 11/34 computer), the facility is now in full use. For the purpose of operating the telescope, a Center for Infrared Astronomy has been established in Florence as a joint venture of the Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory and the National Research Council, under the general Direction of M. Landini. The main purpose of the Center is to operate the telescope as a national facility, to prepare the required advanced instrumentation and to carry out research in infrared astronomy. Concerning the instrumentation (in addition to what has already been developed in other Italian institutes), a Florence team led by P. Salinari is now busy making available for general observers in the near IR a new very sensitive InSb spectrophotometer (already operational) and a cooled spectrometer (which should become operational late in 1983). Additional future plans include the use of two-dimensional arrays and CCD development, subject to decisions about funding levels.

In any case, a new important facility is now available in Europe in one of the most exciting areas of modern astronomy and its use is not restricted to Italian astronomers despite the heavy booking of the first few months of observing time. Having joined ESO, being on the verge of inaugurating the first of two new 32 m radio telescopes (mainly for VLBI studies), the Italian scientific community looks forward to the use of the new telescope and to the increasing chance that the Ministry of Education will in the near future support the long awaited project of a national 3.5 meter optical telescope.

F. Pacini, Osservatorio di Arcetri



The new Italian infrared telescope on Gornergrat.

PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS

STAFF

Arrivals

Europe

NOETHE, Lothar (D), Systems Analyst/Senior Programmer, 1.1.1983

Chile

EICHENDORF, Walter (D), Astronomer, 1.1.1983 (transfer from Garching)
ZUIDERWIJK, Eduardus (NL), Astronomer, 15.2.1983

Departures

Europe

TKANY, Sylvia (D), Receptionist, 30.11.1982
MÜLLER, Karel (DK), Administrative Assistant (Accounting), 31.12.1982
MACFARLANE, Penelope (GB), Scientific Reports Typist, 9.1.1983
COIGNET, Gilbert (F), Electronics Technician, 28.2.1983

Chile

DE BREY, Eric (NL), Administrative Officer, 31.12.1982

FELLOWS

Arrivals

Europe

SADLER, Elaine (GB/Austr.), 15.1.1983

Departures

Europe

SOL, Héliène (F), 16.11.1982

KRAUTTER, Joachim (D), 30.11.1982

MOTCH, Christian (F), 28.02.1983

ASSOCIATES

Departures

Europe

WAMPLER, Joseph (USA), 31.12.1982

STUDENTS

Departures

Europe

BOISSON, Catherine (F), 26.12.1982

The Proceedings of the

Second ESO Infrared Workshop

which took place from 20 to 23 April in Garching, have just been published. The price for this 446-p. volume is DM 50.— and has to be prepaid.

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